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1617, fax number (703) 872-9306 to Examiner Theodore J. Criares

November 22, 2004

By: Plagy Michals

Peggy Nichols

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application for:

H. Michael SHEPARD, et al.

U.S. Appl. No.: 10/051,320

Filing Date: January 18, 2002

For: METHODS TO TREAT AUTOIMMUNE AND INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS

Confirmation No.: 8000

Examiner: Criares, T. J.

Art Unit: 1617

COMMUNICATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF AN REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION APPLICATION (RCE)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in connection with the Request for Continued Examination Application concurrently filed today that also replies to the Final Office Action issued September 22, 2004, by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to this Action is due December 22, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

The Listing of the Claims begin on Page 2 of this Reply.

The Remarks begin on Page 6 of this Reply.